

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Ally *et al.*

Appl. No. To be Assigned (Divisional of U.S.
Appl. No. 09/489,679; Filed: January 24, 2000)

Filed: Herewith

For: **Apparatus and Method for Drying
Solutions Containing
Macromolecules**

Art Unit: To be Assigned

Examiner: To be Assigned

Atty. Docket: 0942.4060002/LEA/DTJ

Preliminary Amendment

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

It is respectfully requested that this preliminary amendment be entered prior to examination of the application. It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those which may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required therefor (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Kindly enter the following Amendment:

In the Claims

Please cancel claims 1-33.

Remarks

With entry of the foregoing Amendment, claims 34-49 are pending in the present application, with claim 34 being the independent claim. Claims 1-33 have been canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. This claim amendment is believed to be fully supported by the Specification and is not believed to introduce new matter. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner give favorable consideration to these claims. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned representative if an interview might be useful for any reason.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

Linda E. Alcorn

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Date: December 21, 2000
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